



VIZ SIGNATURE

A touching, character-rich vision of an intriguing new world.

Mitsu's a window-washer in the Ring System, a civilization constructed after Earth was abandoned and turned into a nature preserve. His father died on the job five years earlier, and Mitsu takes his work seriously. Unfortunately, not all of his coworkers feel the same way, and they begin to resent the care and diligence he puts into clearing a vision of Earth for the residents of the Ring. One day, while staying late to check on his colleague's work, Mitsu loses radio contact. Will he meet the same fate as his father?

Head Wanka is the creator of several one-shot manga, including *Hana Yori* (Flower Looks) and *Shiro Kumo* (White Clouds), both of which were serialized in *IKKI* magazine. Her art installations have been displayed internationally in the group show "Tokyo Girls Bravo," curated by Takashi Murakami. *Saturn Apartments* is her most recent series.

saturn apartments

sig
IKKI

saturn apartments



5

Hisae
Iwaoka

Hisae
Iwaoka

www.sigikki.com

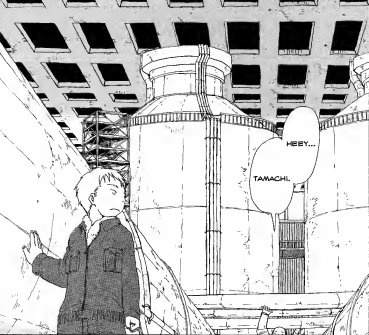
VIZ
SIGNATURE

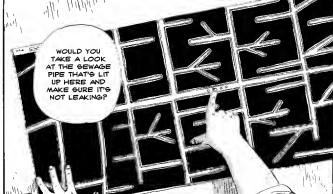


saturn
apartments 5
HISAE IWAOKA

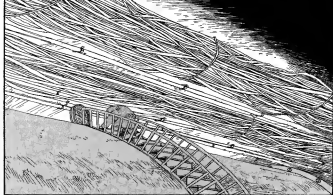


FLOOR 36.	THE EGG WOMAN	003
FLOOR 37.	A WIDE WINDOW	023
FLOOR 38.	UNDER THE WINDOW	043
FLOOR 39.	WHAT HE REALIZED	063
FLOOR 40.	A T-SHIRT AND A RESOLUTION	087
FLOOR 41.	THE SWALLOWED-UP VOICE	107
FLOOR 42.	YUKISHIMA AND FRIED CHICKEN	127
FLOOR 43.	THE BEGINNING ROOM	147
FLOOR 44.	THE DRUGGIST'S DIAGNOSIS	167
	IN THE LOFT	188

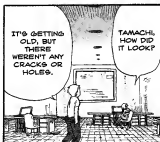




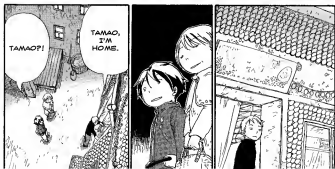
















BRING
ME THE
EGGS

WHERE
ARE
THEY?

HMM?
SO YOU
WANTED
SOME
DELICIOUS
EGGS?



SHE GETS
ANGRY IF I
DON'T CALL
HER BY
NAME.

I DON'T
WANT BE
CALLED
"GRANDMA."



BRING
THE
EGGS

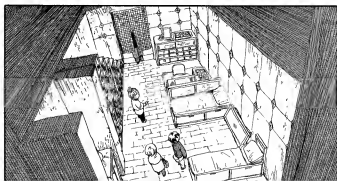
ALL RIGHT,
I'LL GO
FIND
SOMETHING
TO PUT
THEM IN.

AH,
THEY'RE
PRECIOUS
EGGS, SO
I USED
THEM
AS AN
OFFERING.



COME
IN.

WE
SHOULDN'T
BE
TALKING
OUTSIDE...





TAMACHI'S
GRAND-
FATHER.



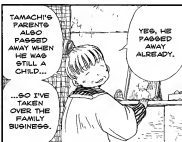
THIS
GOOD
ENOUGH?

THANK
YOU.



WHAT DO
YOU DO?

THIS ONE
WANTED TO
DO SOME-
THING ELSE,
SO I TOOK
IT OVER
INSTEAD.



TAMACHI'S
PARENTS
ALSO
PASSED
AWAY WHEN
HE WAS
STILL A
CHILD...

...SO I'VE
TAKEN
OVER THE
FAMILY
BUSINESS.

YES, HE
PASSED
AWAY
ALREADY.



WHOA.

I'M A
CRAFTSWOMAN
WHO WORKS
WITH EGG-
SHELLS.





YOU
WANNA
TASTE
AN EGG?



REAL WHITE
RICE AND
EGGS ARE
RARE.



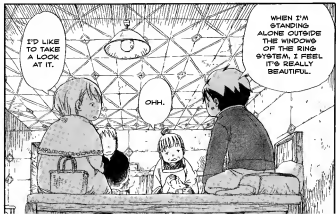
SO THE
UPPER
LEVELS KNOW
ABOUT EGG
CRAFTS TOO!













BUT, MITSU,
AREN'T YOU
JUST PATTING
YOURSELF
ON THE
BACK FOR
WASHING THE
WINDOWS?

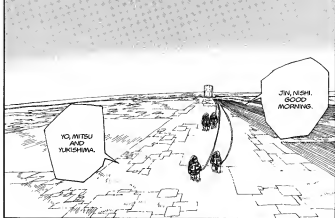
HUH?
NO.

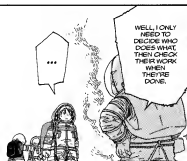
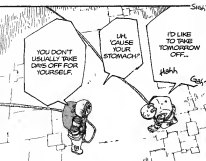
THE
OUTSIDE...

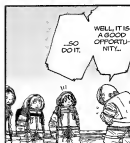
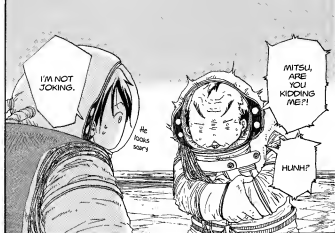


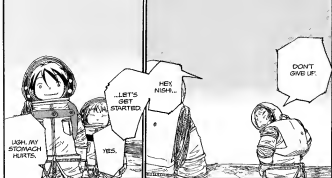
floor 37: a wide window,













AHI
MAKOTO,
I'LL BE IN
CHARGE
TOMORROW.

HMP



YES,
I AM.

WHAT?
MITSU'S IN
CHARGE
TOMORROW?

OH.



I GOT
TOMORROW
OFF.



YEAH,
YEAH.



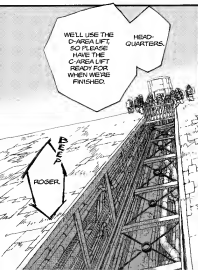
WE'LL BE
CLEANING THE
MIDDLE-LEVEL
WINDOWS FOR
THREE DAYS,
SO PLEASE
START THE
DAY AFTER
TOMORROW.

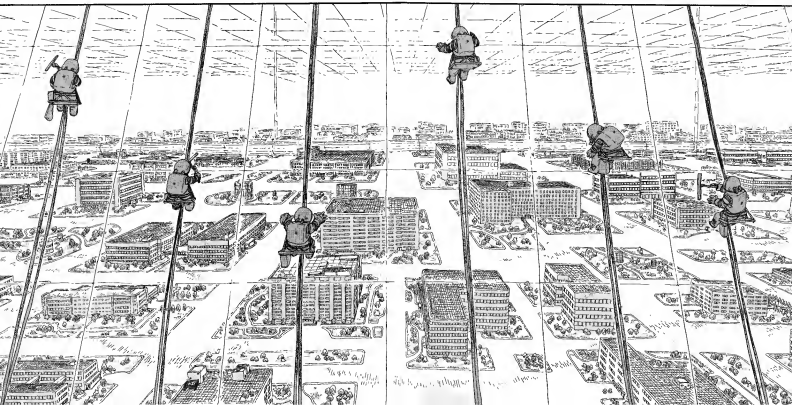
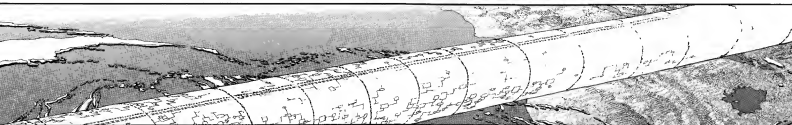


NOT EVERY-
ONE NEEDS
TO WORK
TOMORROW.

AND I'D
PLANNED
TO TAKE
TOMORROW
OFF FROM
BEFORE.

WHAT,
MAKOTO,
YOU
GONNA
SPOIL
THINGS
FOR
MITSU?









YOU WANT
SOMETHING
TO EAT?

FUYU.



IT'S THAT
FUYU GIRL...
WHAT A
BOTHER.



IT'S
MAKOTO.

SHE
FORGOT
MY
NAME.







HOW'S
IT GOING,
MITSU?



PEOPLE
SEEM TO BE
SLACKING
OFF MORE
THAN USUAL...

THIS ISN'T
GOOD...



WHY IS THE
QUALITY
OF THEIR
WORK SO
DIFFERENT
?



PEOPLE
WHO'VE
SLACKED
OFF WILL
FINISH
TOMORROW.

BUT I
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THEIR
WORK...



HE'LL
FINISH IN
EXACTLY
THREE
DAYS.

MR.
YUKISHIMA'S
SLOW, BUT
HE'S DOING
HIS WORK
WELL.



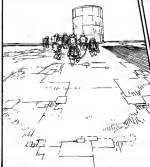
I can't show this to Jin.



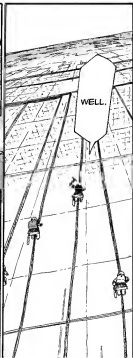
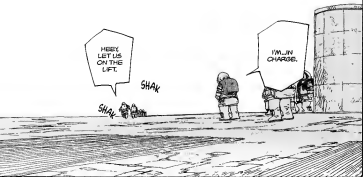
The
Next
Day

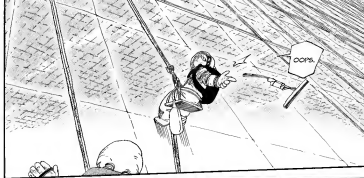
EH? YOU'RE
WORKING
SOMEWHERE
ELSE?

SO, DO
YOUR
BEST.











SOMETHING FELL!

THAT WAS DANGEROUS!



WE DROPPED A TOOL. I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.



I'M SORRY.

N...

NO PROBLEM.

HEY!



JIN THINKS MITSU'S SO GOOD.

DIDN'T THEY KNOW?



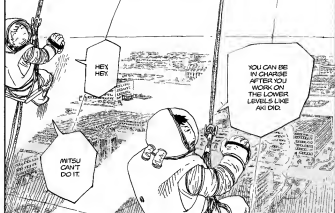
...BEFORE TELLING US HOW TO DO OURS.

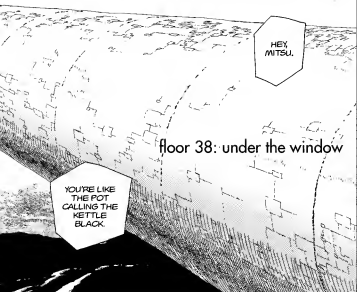
YOU DO YOUR JOB PROPERLY.



CAN'T YOU EVEN TAKE CARE OF YOUR TOOLS PROPERLY?

SO IT WAS MITSU.





HEY,
MITSU.

floor 38: under the window

YOU'RE LIKE
THE POT
CALLING THE
KETTLE
BLACK.



...YET YOU
TOOK TIME
OFF TO
THINK
THINGS
OVER.

KAGEYAMA
QUIT
BECAUSE
OF YOU...



...BUT YOU
CAN'T
EVEN DO
YOUR JOB
PROPERLY.

YOU TOLD
US TO DO
OUR
WORK
OVER...





GOOD,
WE'RE ALL
DONE.



I CAN
FINALLY
SPEND
TIME
WITH MY
FAMILY

AH,
GOOD
FOR
YOU.



I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW
OFF.

WE'VE
BEEN BUSY
AFTER
KAGEYAMA
LEFT.



MY
SHOULDER
HURTS...



MITSU,
I'M
SORRY.
IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT...

NO,
IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.



YOU
GOT ANY
PROBLEMS
WITH THAT?

MITSU,
WE'RE
TAKING
TOMORROW
OFF.

U-UM,
IT WAS
ALL MY
FAULT.



OH, YOU
FINISHED
EARLY.

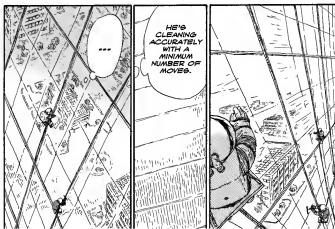
YUP.



SAKU, I'LL
BE TAKING
TOMORROW
OFF.









I'LL LEAVE
AFTER I'VE
CHECKED
EVERYONE'S
WORK. MR.
YUKISHIMA,
YOU CAN GO
TOO...

GOOD
JOB.

... 'CAUSE I
MIGHT BE
A LITTLE
LATE.



OTHERWISE
I WON'T BE
ABLE TO
GET BACK.

AH, WOULD
YOU SEND
THE LIFT
HERE?

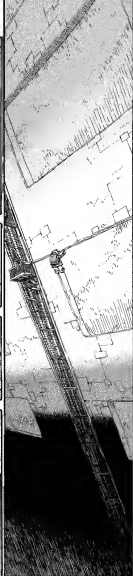
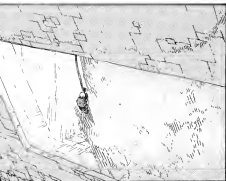
HEY.

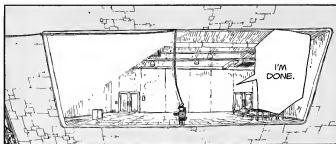
...

YES.

ARE
YOU
SURE?















YOU'RE
JUST
LIKE
ME.

MAKOTO.



DO I...

Did I
hurt
them
yesterday?

I've
got no
strength
left in
my arms.



I DON'T
WANNA
TALK
ABOUT
IT NOW.



DON'T
BLAME
EVERYTHING
ON ME.

YOU TRIED TO
MAKE MITSU
QUIT WHEN
KAGEYAMA
WAS
HOSPITALIZED.



...RIGHT?

NO ONE
REALLY
WANTS HIM
TO FALL...



IF HE'S IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS, WE
CAN FIND
HIM FROM
INSIDE.

NOBU,
LET'S
GO FIND
MITSU.



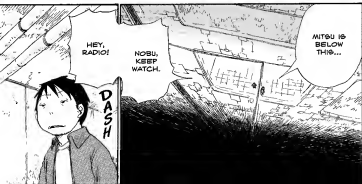
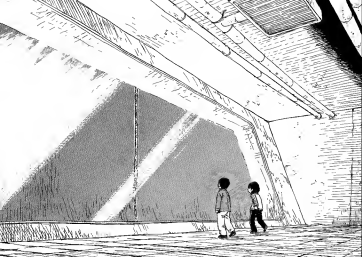




I THINK
I KNOW
WHERE
HE IS. I
GOTTA
GO.









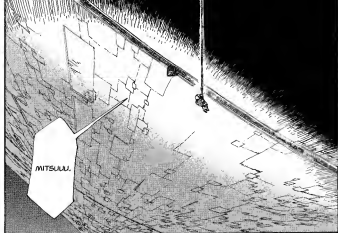
floor 39: what he realized

I once
thought
Father
cut his
rope...

MITSUU,
ANSWER
ME.

...to
descend
to the
earth's
surface.

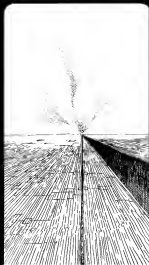
MITSUU.

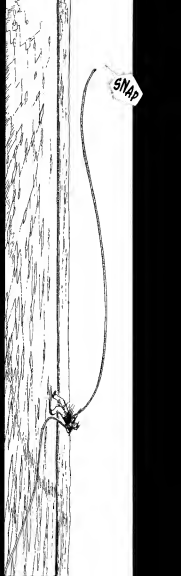


















KYAH!

HEY, LITTLE
MISSY. I'LL
PLAY WITH
YOU.



BROTHER
MIS AWAKE?
YOU WANNA
PLAY?

FUYU.



YES...



YOU CAN
TAKE
TODAY OFF,
BUT YOU
CONTINUE
WITH YOUR
WORK
TOMORROW.

HEY,
MITSU. YOU
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO WORK
TOMORROW.



YOU TAKE
RESPON-
SIBILITY
FOR IT.

YOU CAN
DECIDE.



WE CAN
FINISH THE
WORK WITHOUT
EVERYONE ON
DUTY, SO CAN
I LET PEOPLE
TAKE TIME
OFF IF THEY
WANT?

JIN, THERE'RE
PEOPLE WHO
HAVEN'T BEEN
ABLE TO TURN
IN REQUESTS
FOR DAYS
OFF.

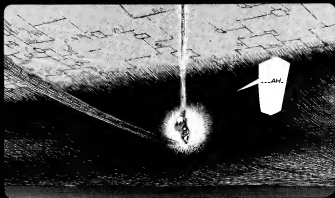








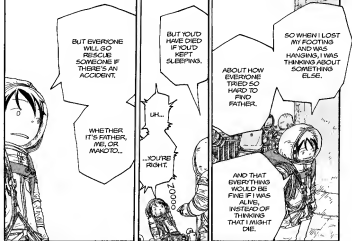














Aki...

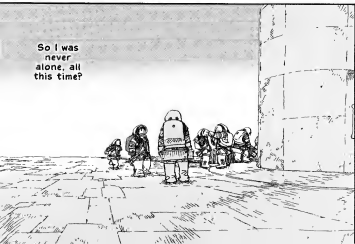


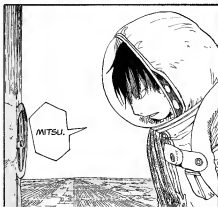
Tamachi...



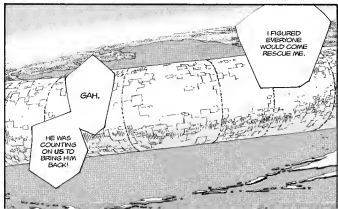
Everyone...

So I was
never
alone, all
this time?



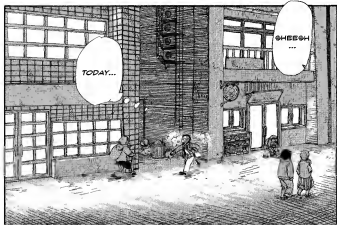


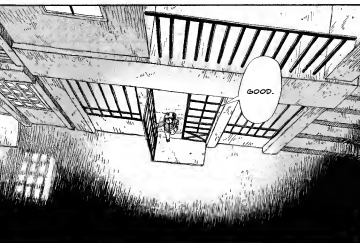






floor 40: a t-shirt and a resolution







...bean
sprout.

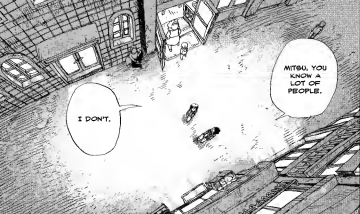
The vegetable
that grows
in the dim
lower levels...

HMM?













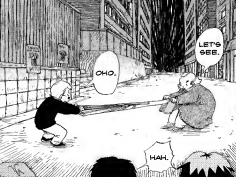




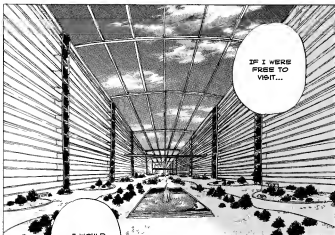










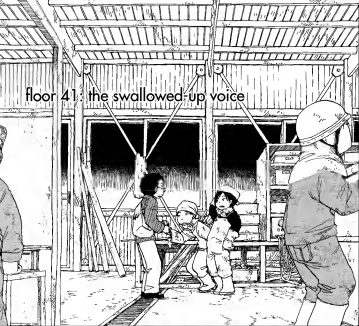








floor 41: the swallowed-up voice







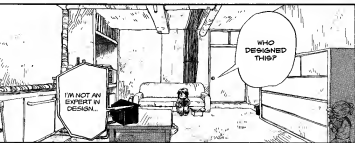
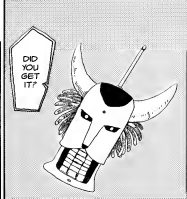














HUH? OH,
SOHTA.

GOOD
EVENING,
MITSU.



HELLO?

AMAZING.
THE RADIO
WAVES
REACH
HERE FROM
THE UPPER
LEVELS.

WAH! I
CAN
HEAR
SOME-
THING.



WHAP A
WALKIE-
TALKIE?!

BAM



I'D LIKE
TO ASK
ABOUT THE
MAN WHO
MADE THAT
T-SHIRT—

THE
PEOPLE AT
THE GUILD
TOLD ME
YOU WERE
HOME, SO
I CAME
OVER.

HUH?
WHAT'S
THAT?



SOHTA!

WHAT?

MITSU IS
DESCENDING
TO THE
SURFACE,
SO I'D LIKE
TO HAVE HIM
TAKE THIS
WITH.



HUH?

HELLO, MAY
I TAKE THIS
TO THE
SURFACE?



I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO THERE FOR A WHILE.

UH... WELL...



WITSU, YOU'RE GONNA GO TO THE SURFACE?

WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ANYTHING YET...



EVEN THE UPPER AND LOWER LEVELS ARE PRETTY FAR APART.

...IS SO FAR AWAY.



THE SURFACE...



BUT I DIDN'T THINK GOHTA WOULD START TELLING OTHER PEOPLE.

GOEP I KNEW IT.



AH, DIDN'T MEAN TO OVERWHELM YOU. JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.



WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE?



Hmm?

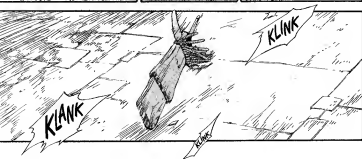


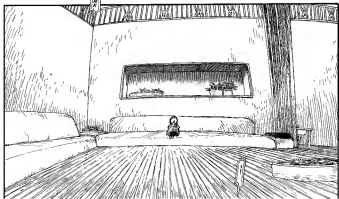
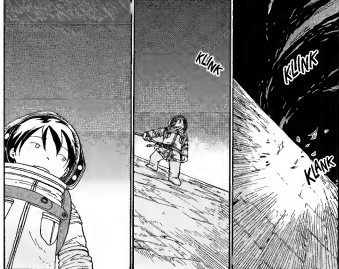
PSSSSSH

IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IF WE COULD REALLY DO IT.















AMISU.

THE
TRANSMISSION
WAS CUT
OFF...

...BUT I THINK
THE WALKIE-
TALKIE
REACHED THE
ATMOSPHERE.



UH,
YEAH.

ALL RIGHT,
THEN I'LL GO
CHECK THE
PIPE.



SOHTA,
GOOD
JOB.

YOU'RE
GONNA
DO YOUR
RESEARCH
TODAY TOO.



...



WHAT
ELSE
COULD
ENDANGER
THE
PILOT'S
LIFE? CAN
I HANDLE
IT?



I GOTTA
FIGURE OUT
THE CUSHION
STRUCTURE
AFTER
CALCULATING
THE IMPACT.

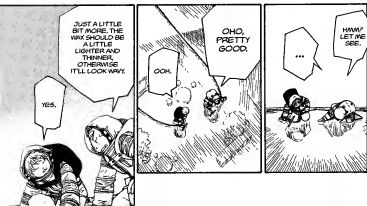
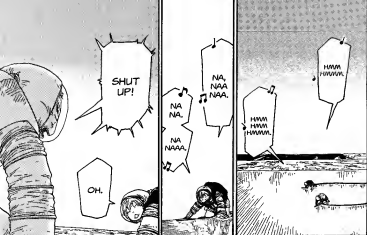
SAFETY...
A HUMAN
BEING WILL
BE INSIDE
THE
DESCENT
DEVICE.



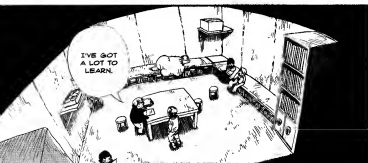


floor 42: Yukishima and fried chicken



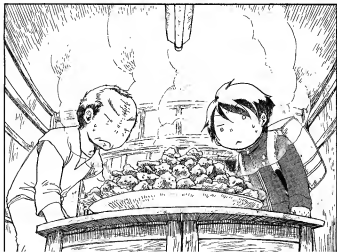
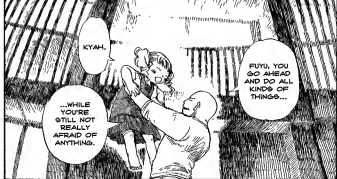


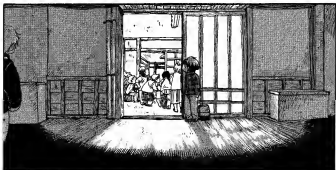




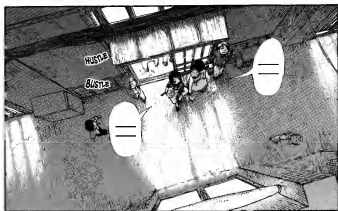
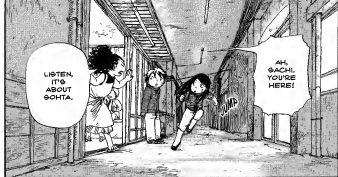


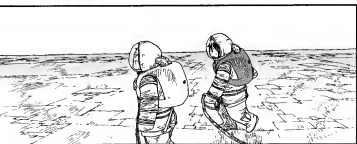
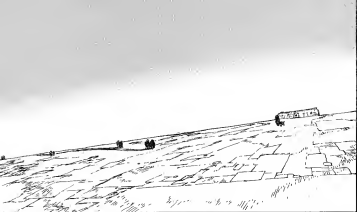


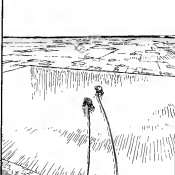


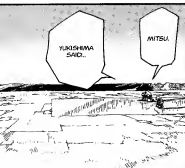
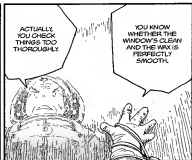
















I could feel
the tension
leaving my
shoulders.



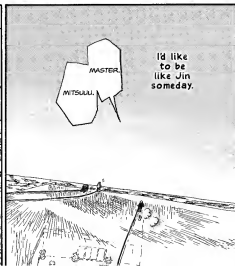
...ever
rescued
like I was
just now?

Was
Father...



YES.

OH, NOW I
SWITCH WITH
YUKISHIMA.



MITSUUL.

MASTER.

I'd like
to be
like Jin
someday.



...everyone probably believes

Without thinking too much about it...

He put it so simply.



YOU'RE RIGHT.



EH?

UM...

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S DOWN THERE. THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING INTERESTING...



WOULDN'T YOU?

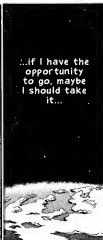
I'D LIKE TO GO DOWN.



YUKISHIMA, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO THE SURFACE?



...that they "would like to go to the surface"...



floor 43: the beginning room





IS IT GOING
TO BE
RENOVATED?

I HEAR
THAT THE
FACILITY IS
GETTING
OLD.

OH.

I DIDN'T
KNOW.



YEAH,
YEAH.

SO, SOHTA,
YOU WORK
AT THE GAS
POWER
PLANT?

I'm
tired.



HUH?
I'VE
NEVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT.

AREN'T YOUR
COLLEAGUES
UNHAPPY
ABOUT THAT?

...EVEN
THOUGH
THE
LOWER
LEVELS
MAINTAIN
IT.



THAT
POWER PLANT
PROVIDES
ELECTRICITY
TO THE UPPER
LEVELS TOO...



SOHTA,
YOU WORK
THERE.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON
THERE
THESE
DAYS...



BUT
APPARENTLY
I'M DENSE.

WELL,
THINGS
MUST BE
FINE IF
THAT'S
HOW YOU
FEEL
ABOUT IT.



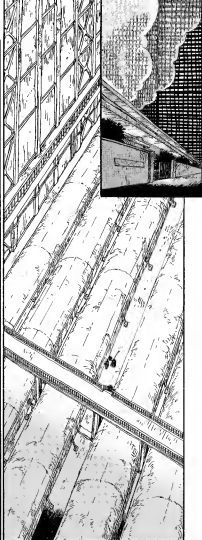
HEY, ARE YOU
WORKING FOR
THE UPPER
LEVELS?!

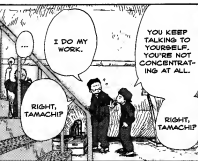
WHAT?

AM I WORRYING
TOO MUCH?
SOMETIMES
PEOPLE GLARE
AT ME 'CAUSE
I WORK FOR
THE PUBLIC
PEACE
BUREAU.

THAT
SO?











BUT IT WAS
TOO LONG
TO WAIT, AND
NOW SHE'S
BECOME A
PART OF MY
PAST. I
CAN'T GO
SEE HER
ANYMORE.

THAT'S
WHAT
SHE
SAID.

I'LL BE
WAITING
FOR
YOU.



MOBBI,
DON'T
TORTURE
YOUR-
SELF.

I DON'T
FEEL LIKE
I'VE
BECOME
INDEPENDENT
ENOUGH, SO
I CAN'T SEE
MY PARENTS
YET.

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN
A LOWER-
LEVEL
BUREAU
EMPLOYEE
IS GONNA
GET FIRED.



....



SOHTA,
YOU TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR
WIFE.



RIGHT
...?

I DO...







THEN HER
CONDITION
HASN'T
CHANGED.

SHE'S
SLEEPING
WELL.



AH, IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME. I
COULDN'T
COME VISIT
AFTER I
MOVED.



HEY.

YES?



...BUT
PLEASE
REPORT
BACK TO
THEM ABOUT
HOW WELL
THE DRUGS
WORKED.

THEY
WERE
HAPPY
WITH THE
DEAL
TOO...



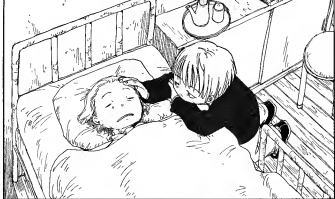
AH, MR.
NISHIMARU.
THE DRUG-
MAKER YOU
INTRODUCED
US TO SOLD
US DRUGS
AT A GOOD
PRICE.

THANKS.

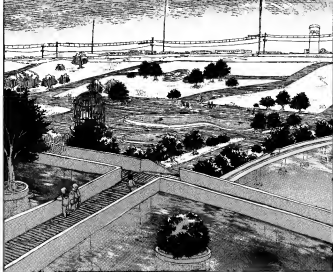


YES.

WE'VE
GOT A
PATIENT.
COME
HELP.









to be
able to
spend
time
with you
today.

I'm
really
really
happy...

MMM.



Can you
understand?



Sohta,
listen.



I'LL GET
BACK TO
WORKING
HARD AGAIN
TOMORROW.

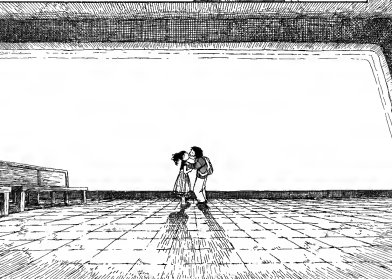
AH!



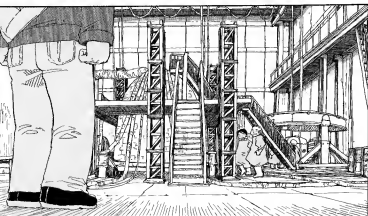
SOHTA,
THERE'S
ONE MORE
PLACE I'D
LIKE TO GO.

But
he's so
dense!













floor 44: the druggist's diagnosis







if there's
something
seriously
wrong
with her...



"DON'T
GO THAT
WAY..."

"AKI."

H
A
H

WHY'RE
THESE TWO
WEARING
THEM
NOW?

TAKE
THOSE
GLASSES
OFF.

YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?

YOU WERE
GROANING,
TAMACHI.

SO,
TAMACHI,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK OF
THEM?

I GAVE
THEM
SOME
GLASSES.

TAMACHO
...

...







I CAN PRETEND
EVERYTHING'S
FINE. PLEASE
DON'T TELL
TAMAO ABOUT
THIS.

I'M
SORRY.

...WHY
SHOULD I
BE ABLE
TO KEEP
EATING
THEM...



...I
THOUGHT...



JUST
FORGIVE
YOURSELF.



HEY,
TAMACHI.

YOU'RE
ALIVE, SO
YOU CAN
LAUGH AND
CRY.



YOU MUST'VE
BEEN
PRETENDING
NOTHING WAS
WRONG ALL
THIS TIME.

I'M
SORRY I
REMINDED
YOU OF
AKI.

I can't
save
anyone,
even
in my
dreams.

But,
Haruko...



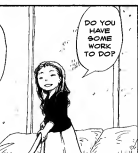


HMM...
HAVE
TO GO
SEE A
PATIENT...



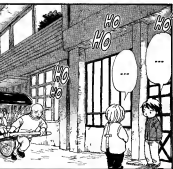
HE WANTS
ME TO SEE
SOMEONE.
HER BLOOD
SAMPLE WILL
BE ARRIVING
SOON. WILL
YOU PUT IT
ASIDE FOR
ME?

YEAH,
FROM AN
ACQUAIN-
TANCE IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS.



DO YOU
HAVE
SOME
WORK
TO DO?





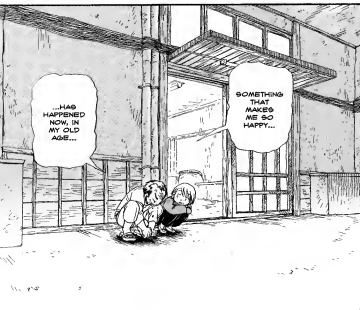


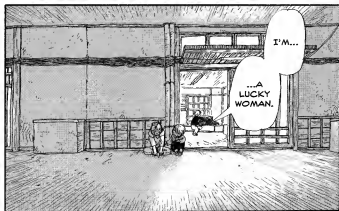


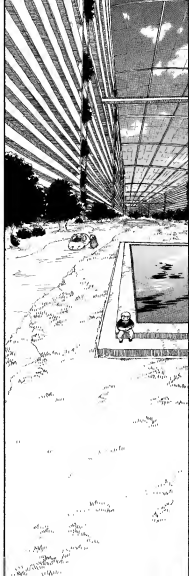












in the loft



Thanks to Etsuko, Hira, Kasei, Runaka, and you, for reading.

In the Next Volume

Living isn't easy in the lower levels of the Ring System, a floating civilization constructed when Earth was abandoned as a nature preserve. Sixteen-year-old Mitsu got a job washing windows for the wealthy residents of the upper levels after his father, also a window washer, fell from his tether. Now Mitsu's been asked to man an illegal craft that's descending to the surface of the earth. But it seems everyone in this divided society has a secret agenda. Mitsu alone must decide if he's ready to take the journey of a lifetime...





